

## ABSTRACT

## REDOX REVERSIBLE HCV PROTEINS with NATIVE-LIKE CONFORMATION

- 5 The present invention relates to HCV proteins in which cysteine residues are reversibly protected during purification. Eventually, this purification procedure results in HCV proteins with biological activity and a native-like protein conformation, which present corresponding epitopes. The present invention pertains also to drug screening methods using these HCV proteins, and diagnostic and therapeutic applications, such as vaccines and drugs.

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